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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

August 27, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Meyer and Speaker Chenault:

On August 27, 2015, I declared a disaster in response to the landslides and flooding caused by heavy rainfall and strong wind in the City and Borough of Sitka on August 18, 2015.

Sitka received higher than normal precipitation for most of the summer, but on August 18, 2015, Sitka received approximately three inches of rain in only six hours. This intense rainfall, combined with strong winds and the summer precipitation, resulted in seven road system landslides, flooded property, and a sinkhole within the city limits. One landslide resulted in three fatalities requiring extended search and recovery operations. Slides and flooding also damaged private residences, government buildings, critical infrastructure, and private businesses. Recovery operations have been hampered by continued heavy rain and unstable debris. On August 18, 2015, Sitka declared a local disaster emergency and requested State assistance.

At this time, I am limiting expenditures to \$1,000,000, but, as this incident is ongoing, the total cost of response and recovery is unknown. The money will come from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), and this letter will serve as the initial finance plan in accordance with AS 26.23.025. The current balance of the DRF is \$2,022,030, and a supplemental appropriation is not required at this time.

I am providing you a copy of the disaster declaration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".
Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
The Honorable Mike Chenault
August 27, 2015
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cc: The Honorable Pete Kelly, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Anna MacKinnon, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Mark Neuman, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of
Representatives
The Honorable Steve Thompson, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of
Representatives
The Honorable Bert Stedman, District R, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, District 35, Alaska State House of
Representatives